

Section 5-2.2:3. Threat Assessment Team Required; Team Members; Principal may provide information; Report to superintendent; Report to Department of Criminal Justice Services; Responsibility of school superintendent. — A. The superintendent

establishes a threat assessment team for each school. Teams may serve one or more schools as determined by the superintendent. The teams assess and intervene with students whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff or students consistent with the model policies developed by the Virginia Center for School Safety including procedures for referrals to community services boards or health care providers for evaluation or treatment when appropriate.

B. Each team includes persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration and law enforcement, and in schools in which a school resource officer is employed, at least one such school resource officer. New threat assessment team members complete an initial threat assessment training and all threat assessment team members complete refresher threat assessment training every three years. Each team:

- (i) provides guidance to students, faculty and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school or self;
- (ii) identifies members of the school community to whom threatening behavior should be reported; and
- (iii) implements policies adopted by the School Board.

C. A principal who has received information that a juvenile is a suspect in or has been charged with certain violations of law pursuant to Va. Code § 16.1-301 may provide such information to a threat assessment team. No member of a threat assessment team may disclose any such information or use such information for any purpose other than evaluating threats to students and school personnel.

D. Upon a preliminary determination that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to self or others, a threat assessment team shall immediately report its determination to the superintendent or superintendent's designee. The superintendent or superintendent's designee immediately attempts to notify the student's parent or legal guardian: and shall provide, either in such initial attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian or through a separate communication to the student's parent or legal guardian made as soon as practicable thereafter. Such materials:

- (a) will address recognition of and strategies for responding to behavior indicating that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to self or others;
- (b) must include information on the legal requirements in Va. Code § 18.2-56.2 relating to the safe storage of firearms in the presence of minors; and
- (c) may include guidance on best practices and strategies for limiting a student's access to lethal means, including firearms and medications.

Nothing in this policy precludes school division personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent threat.

E. Upon a preliminary determination by the threat assessment team that an individual poses a threat of violence to self or others or exhibits significantly disruptive behavior or need for assistance, a threat assessment team may obtain criminal history record information, as provided in Va. Code §§ 19.2-389 and 19.2-389.1, and health records, as provided in Va. Code § 32.1-127.1:03. No member of a threat assessment team re-discloses any criminal history record information or health information obtained pursuant to this policy or otherwise uses any record of an individual beyond the purpose for which such disclosure was made to the threat assessment team.

F. Each threat assessment team collects and reports to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (the Center) quantitative data on its activities using the case management tool by the Center.

G. The superintendent may establish a committee to oversee the threat assessment teams or may assign the oversight of the teams to an existing committee. If such a committee is established, it will include individuals with expertise in human resources, education, school administration, mental health and law enforcement. (Ordinance Number 14/5-2; Adopted July 10, 2014; Revised May 12, 2016; Ordinance 15/16-39; Effective Date: July 1, 2016; Revised October 13, 2016; Ordinance Number 16/17-7; Effective Date: July 1, 2017; Ordinance Number 19/20-22; Revised/Effective: November 14, 2019; Ordinance 22/23-86, Revised/Effective: May 11, 2023; Ordinance 23/24-31, Revised/Effective: December 14, 2023)

Legal Authority - Virginia Code §§ 16.1-301, 18.2-56.2, 22.1-79.4 (1950), as amended.